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16 Nations Meet To Discuss

Marshall Plan

HOPES REST ON SUCCESS OF PLENARY SESSION

Programme Of Action

Paris, Mar. 14.—Delegates of 16 nations arrived here today by road, rail and air for the Marshall Plan Conference, which opens tomorrow, to find the city bathed in sunshine and buzzing with speculation on the outcome of the Conference.

The news that the United States Senate had approved the European recovery programme helped to lighten the political gloom which has gathered over Europe since the Czechoslovak crisis.

Parisians, in their boulevard cafes, were asking what were the prospects of Germany and Spain being allowed to join the 16 nations planning to rebuild Europe's war-shattered economy.

Mr Bevin said tonight as he left London by rail for the Conference that he was hopeful the plenary session of the Conference was an augury for the broadening of co-operation between the European powers. When asked if he thought it would lead to greater integration and wider co-operation in Europe, he replied: "If all the nations were free they would all do it now. All the countries wanted to come in last June, but they were prevented."

"We are signing the five-power treaty, if all goes well, on Wednesday," Mr Bevin added, referring to the Brussels meeting, "at which, it is expected, he will sign a treaty of alliance with France and the Benelux nations. He is expected in Paris tomorrow morning.

Count Carlo Sforza, the Italian Foreign Minister, received a Reuters' special correspondent in his private coach on the Simplon Orient express as the train rushed past the shores of Lake Maggiore on its way to Paris.

"It is high time," he said, "to realise that our major duty is to arrive at the organisation of Europe. I am going confidently to Paris because events make it necessary for all of us to agree on essentials."

On the opening session in the Quai d'Orsay at 2 p.m. GMT tomorrow, the experts of the 16 nations will meet at the luxury Royal Monceau Hotel, near the Arc de Triomphe.

This morning, M. Constantine Tsaldaris, the Greek Vice-Premier and Foreign Minister, and Mr. McMeekin, the Turkish Foreign Minister, were received by the French Foreign Minister, M. Georges Bidault.

This afternoon, M. Bidault was to see other delegation leaders, and tomorrow he will hold conversations with the Foreign Ministers attending the Conference.

It is now likely that there will be three plenary sessions during the first two days of the Conference, the first tomorrow afternoon and the other two on Tuesday morning and afternoon. This would give the heads of the delegations something like a total of eight hours (excluding translations) to make their policy declarations.

Mr. Oliver Franks, Mr. Bevin's deputy to the Conference, and Sir Wilfrid Eady, arrived here this evening.

The proposed agenda for tomorrow's Conference to discuss the Marshall Plan falls under four headings, writes Sylvia Mangoe, Reuters' diplomatic correspondent.

1.—To receive a report on the accomplishments, actions and decisions taken by the 16 states since the last meeting of the Co-operation Committee in Paris last summer.

2.—To receive—but probably not to discuss—the findings of the American Organisation of the 16 committees. These are collectively known as the "country" and "commodity" reports.

3.—To set up, and frame the terms of reference for, a working party which will immediately come to Paris to draft a constitution for a continuing organisation of the 16 powers and draw up a multilateral agreement pledging continued economic co-operation.

4.—To discuss the extent and method of German representation at future meetings on the Co-operation Committee.

THE MAIN ASPECTS

The main aspects of the Conference's work are:

Political.—To demonstrate that the countries of Europe outside the Soviet sphere of influence are determined to work together towards political stability through a planned economic recovery.

Economic.—It is the last opportunity before the United States Congress decision on the European recovery Bill to strike a public balance sheet of Europe's plans and achievements in the field of self-help and to bring into existence the necessary working organisation to handle American aid with the maximum efficiency as soon as it becomes available.

The plenary sessions of the Conference are expected to be complete within a week. After the first two days of political declarations, two or three days work by high officials, before the working party get down to the detailed task of setting up a continuing organisation, are envisaged.

The working party is expected to be sitting for anything up to three or four weeks. It is hoped it will finish its task by the time the United States Congress decides on the European recovery Bill so that the third plenary session of the Co-operation Committee may be called immediately the Bill becomes law.

PROGRAMME OF ACTION

Paris, Mar. 14.—A programme of action for European recovery, drawn up by business leaders and experts from 10 countries, was being submitted today by Mr. Arthur Guinn, President of the International Chamber of Commerce, to the 16-nation Conference on European recovery opening here tomorrow.

The programme recommended that "existing resources and capital equipment must be fully and effectively utilised before any country has the moral right to claim aid."

hours and the abolition of restrictive practices on the part of labour and management alike should be considered as means of reducing the amount of aid required and of helping Europe to make itself independent of aid," the programme said.

Under the heading "Deflation without Tears," the programme said the first and most imperative duty of European governments was to stop the postwar inflation by balancing budgets on current account and at levels which were not too heavy a strain on national resources.

"Nationalised industries must be made to pay and considerable re-arrangements must be carried out in the number of Government servants who should be rapidly absorbed into productive activities."

The proceeds of aid should not be used for the premature remission of taxation or for non-essential expenditure. They must be used to help to combat inflation and bring about a deflation "without tears."

Delegates from Britain, the United States, Australia, Belgium, Canada, France, Italy, the Netherlands and Switzerland, took part in preparing the Chamber programme, Reuters.

GERMAN PARTICIPATION

Frankfurt, Mar. 14.—General Sir Brian Robertson and General Lucius Clay, the British and American Military Governors in Germany, and leading German officials will tomorrow make their final plans for German participation in the 16-nation Marshall Plan Conference in Paris.

Following a morning meeting of the Allied Bipartite Board—which will give formal approval to the Allied delegation to Paris—the two Governments will meet the new Bipartite Executive and members of the Economic Council for the first time.

It is expected that the Bipartite Board may also consider the appointment of German advisers who will give the Allied delegation to explain the needs and possible contributions of the Western Zones towards European recovery.

There are many indications that the fear of Russian expansion, acute among the German population since the Czech crisis, is influencing the thought of the German political leaders.

Some German leaders of the Centre and Right are inclined to react to the hardening international situation by an increased readiness to face the prospect of the Western States providing this can be incorporated from the start into the West European security system and its D. Eisenhower guarantee.—Reuters.

MOSCOW ATTACKS PLAN

Moscow, Mar. 14.—Pravda, the Soviet Communist paper, today attacked the provision of the Marshall Plan under which countries receiving Marshall aid will be able to export goods to Russia only with United States approval. "This means that a State which agrees to receive American goods or credit foregoes the last vestiges of independence," the paper said. "It will not only be unable to sell its goods without American consent, but also to buy them anywhere except in the United States. If it is prohibited from dealing with the Soviet Union or the other democratic countries, it will be unable to acquire anything from these countries in exchange. This promises new enormous profits for the American monopolists. The nations of Western Europe, which place their finance and economy under United States control, will be the victims."—Reuters.

Give Us Peace, Women Cry

Rome, Mar. 14.—Chanting "Down with the Atom Bomb" and "Give Us Peace," 30,000 women paraded through the streets of Rome today in a mass demonstration against war.

The women, who came from many parts of the country, were representatives of national women's associations grouped together under the "Court of Peace."

Before the parade, the women heard anti-war speeches calling for total and universal disarmament and the scrapping of the atom bomb. The speakers included the scientist, Madame Irene Joliot-Curie, daughter of the famous Marie and Pierre Curie.

A special delegation of women presented the Italian President, Dr. Enrico Nicola, with a parchment dedicated to peace, carrying the signatures of 2,000,000 women.

The parade ended at the tomb of Italy's Unknown Warrior.—Reuters.

UN May Challenge Communist Coup In Czechoslovakia

Lake Success, N. Y., Mar. 14.—The United States was reported on Sunday to be ready to vote for a United Nations review of the Communist Coup in Czechoslovakia.

Informed sources said that the United States decision was taken with the full knowledge that it might bring the Security Council its most serious crisis to date.

The Soviet delegation has been grimly silent on the issue but has indicated that Russia will fight bitterly to bar a Council debate on the Czechoslovakia issue.

The first test will come on Wednesday, when the Council is due to decide whether it will admit to its agenda Chile's demands for an investigation of Russia's part in the coup.

AWAITING INSTRUCTIONS
The Chilean delegate, Herman Santa Cruz, made his demand on Friday but the issue is so serious that no delegate will comment until he has received instructions from his government.

The American decision was taken after consultations between Mr. Warren Austin, U.S. Chief delegate and the State Department.

In effect it means only that the United States believes Chile's proposal is entitled to a full hearing. It does not commit the United States to support any specific council action.

The Czechoslovak question may induce another clash of the kind that precipitated Andrei Gromyko's walkout on the question of admitting the Iranian case to the Council's agenda.

REFUSED TO TAKE PART

Russia felt so strongly about that issue that Soviet deputy Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko staged his famous walkout.

He refused to participate in the Council's subsequent Iranian debate. The Czechoslovak question may produce a similar walkout if the Council votes to place the case on its calendar.

The big power veto does not apply to admission of items to the Agenda in the opening round, therefore, only seven affirmative votes are needed to assure Council consideration of the Czechoslovak coup.—Associated Press.

Heavy Arab Losses In Gath Battle

Jerusalem, Mar. 14.—Thirty-seven Arabs were killed and 40 wounded in a 24-hour battle around the Jewish colony of Gath, in the Gaza area, southern Palestine, unofficial Jewish sources claimed tonight.

These sources said that seven Jews were killed and four wounded. Jewish witnesses failed to identify three absentee British police constables at an identity parade at Jerusalem police headquarters today as being connected with the Ben Yehuda Street bombing a fortnight ago.

The constables had been arrested while wearing Arab dress in a misleadingly armed car by British police during an Arab-Jewish clash near Kalandia Airport, north of Jerusalem.

Four Jews who attended at the parade had declared at a Jewish Agency investigation into the bombing that they would be able to identify a man alleged to be a British policeman, who drove an armoured car ahead of several bomb-laden lorries which drove into Ben Yehuda Street on February 22 before the explosion.—Reuters.

letter—the subject of which has not been indicated—for the Iraqi Regent, Abdullah, from King Fouad of Egypt.

ARAB REINFORCEMENTS

Reinforcements for the Arab forces were reported from The Lebanon, Beirut, where 77 Albanians, 27 Yugoslavs and 21 Croats arrived from Italy on Saturday night.

The last evidence received at Lake Success by the United Nations Palestine Commission before their Sunday recess was a Jewish Agency memorandum stating that the Palestine problem would never have become a "real military issue" without the intervention of foreign governments.

The Commission will hand its second monthly report to the President of the Security Council tomorrow.—Reuters.

NEW MOVES PLANNED

London, Mar. 14.—The intense weekend activity in the seven capitals of the Arab League States indicated tonight that the Arabs were planning important new moves in Palestine, while an uneasy lull pervaded the Holy Land.

All reports from the Middle East in the past 24 hours strengthened the belief that significant decisions were about to be taken. The most important move was the recall of Azzam Pasha, Secretary General of the Arab League, to Cairo from his mission of mediation in The Yemen dispute.

His task is to put the Arab case before the United Nations at Lake Success, but was authoritatively stated to be returning to Cairo at once.

A special delegation has arrived in Baghdad bearing a top-secret

HAGANAH'S ACTION

Jerusalem, Mar. 14.—A Jewish Agency spokesman confirmed today reports that Jews between the ages of 17 and 45 are being prevented from leaving Palestine, by force if necessary, regardless of nationality.

Airlines officers report that "hundreds" of their passengers have been stopped by Haganah patrols on the way to the airport.

One company spokesman said seven of his passengers were taken from a bus at gunpoint and forced to return to Tel-Aviv.

The Jewish Agency spokesman said Haganah has placed guards in a travel agency office to watch for Jews who try to book passage.

"We consider the Jews of Palestine are at war," he added. "No Jew without a good excuse could expect to be permitted to shrink his duty in wartime."—Associated Press.

Crowd Sings To Drown Pollitt

London, Mar. 14.—An unsympathetic crowd prevented Harry Pollitt, British Communist Party Secretary, from completing an address in Aylesbury Town Hall today by singing "There'll Always be an England."

The crowd waited outside the hall for him nearly an hour, but Pollitt slipped out a side door and departed unnoticed.—United Press.

Do Not Oppose Aid

Aylesbury, Mar. 14.—The British Communists do not oppose aid to Britain from the United States or any other country, provided there are no conditions which would weaken the sovereignty and independence of the nation, Harry Pollitt, General Secretary of the British Communist Party, declared here today.

"If America wants to help Britain, it can do it by sending scrap iron which it cannot use in its own industry and by sending steel," he stated.

Mr. Pollitt accused the Labour Government of not having an economic plan. The Communists visualised a plan by which all basic industries would be nationalised.—Reuters.

He's King Of The Coalminers

Pantylfannon, Wales, Mar. 14.—William King, the Welsh miner who set up a record weekly output of 71 tons of coal in January, has smashed his own record.

Working on his knees in a seam with only two feet six inches headroom, King last week hand-cut and hand-loaded 90 tons of anthracite at the Tumble Colliery near here, the colliery announced tonight.—Associated Press.

Crew Lashed To Rigging

Reykjavik, Mar. 14.—With her crew lashed to the rigging, the 358-ton Hull trawler Epine was tonight still stranded on a rock off the west coast of Iceland, battered by a gale and swept by heavy seas.

The ship struck the submerged rock late last night. One man had been swept ashore. Efforts were still being made tonight to rescue the crew with rocket lines from the shore, but it was feared that the only hope would be if the ship withstood the battering on the rock until the gale dies.—Reuters.

Lived In Locked House 25 Years

London, Mar. 14.—Excited villagers at Slinnington, Yorkshire, disclosed today that their mysterious lady of the Manor died on Thursday in her 20-room mansion, taking the secret of her solitude with her.

Twenty-five years ago, Miss Hilda Kendall, then 40, closed the shutters of Slinnington Hall, bolted the gates and doors and withdrew from a world which had known her as the eccentric member of a wealthy sporting family.

The mansion and grounds remained untouched. Cobwebs clouded the windows. Inside the locked garage was an American automobile of 1909, a manufacture worth an estimated £1,500 sterling.

MOONLIGHT WALKS

The mysterious spinster emerged from the cluttered and dusty house only at night. Villagers said she invariably headed for the Nun's Walk adjoining the mansion and paced up and down silently in the moonlight.

Four hundred years earlier, one of Henry VIII's wives, Katherine Parr, was confined to the same nunnery and often took the same walk at night.

Miss Kendall's secret was reported to be tied up with her brother William, an evangelist who left her in the mansion and emigrated to the United States. She was said to have returned later with a negro evangelist, but apparently did not live with his sister.—United Press.

EDITORIAL

European Federation

THE timing of the move by 73 MPs to bring about a full Western European union is no less significant than the terms of their resolution to which they hope to add another 10 senators this week. It coincides with the United States Senate's approval of the Marshall aid plan, with the Communists' coup in Czechoslovakia, Finland's agreement to discuss a military alliance with Moscow, the Anglo-French pact with the Benelux countries and the 16-nation conference opening in Paris today. These are the developments which give point and emphasis to the parliamentary resolution designed to establish co-ordination of policies by 16 West European nations which can eventually lead to federation. The terms of the resolution possess a close affinity to Mr. Churchill's conception of a unified Western Europe which is due to be discussed in The Hague in May and which the British socialists have decided to ban. The fact that both right and left wing socialists have joined the Tories, Liberals and Independents in the House of Commons in framing a resolution which so closely follows Churchill's original idea is an emphatic indication that recent events have shaken the Socialists out of their traditional antipathy to anything which emanates from the leader of the Conservative Party. The possibility is that Churchill and his supporters will seek a compromise agreement with the latest all-party movement so that discussion at The Hague will be given the official blessing, even the official representation, of the British Government. The all-

party resolution aims to integrate European national policies for common action on the Marshall aid plan, involving currency, stability, development of trade, a comprehensive production programme and colonial development. These are immediate objectives which, it would appear, must be attained if the Marshall Plan is to be effective. More intriguing is the long-term aim to establish a Federation of Europe which would involve common citizens and a representative government. This is not a new conception, but it does appear at this moment to be more likely of fulfilment than ever before. The economic and financial state of Western Europe (and disregarding the political tension created by Russia's "iron curtain") is sufficient a stimulus to take Western Europe more than halfway towards federation, although its final attainment (assuming it to be considered desirable) would have to overcome many obstacles and resolve a number of complications. So far Britain, France, Belgium and Holland are concerned it must be essential to consider their colonial obligations. Britain especially could never go over the heads of the Commonwealth and be a party to new currency, trade and customs agreements without the approval of the Commonwealth. Nevertheless, if Europe is to save itself, it must at least work on the lines of federation, regarding itself as an integrated and interdependent continent; and if Eastern Europe refuses to share in such a scheme, then the Western nations must, for their own salvation,

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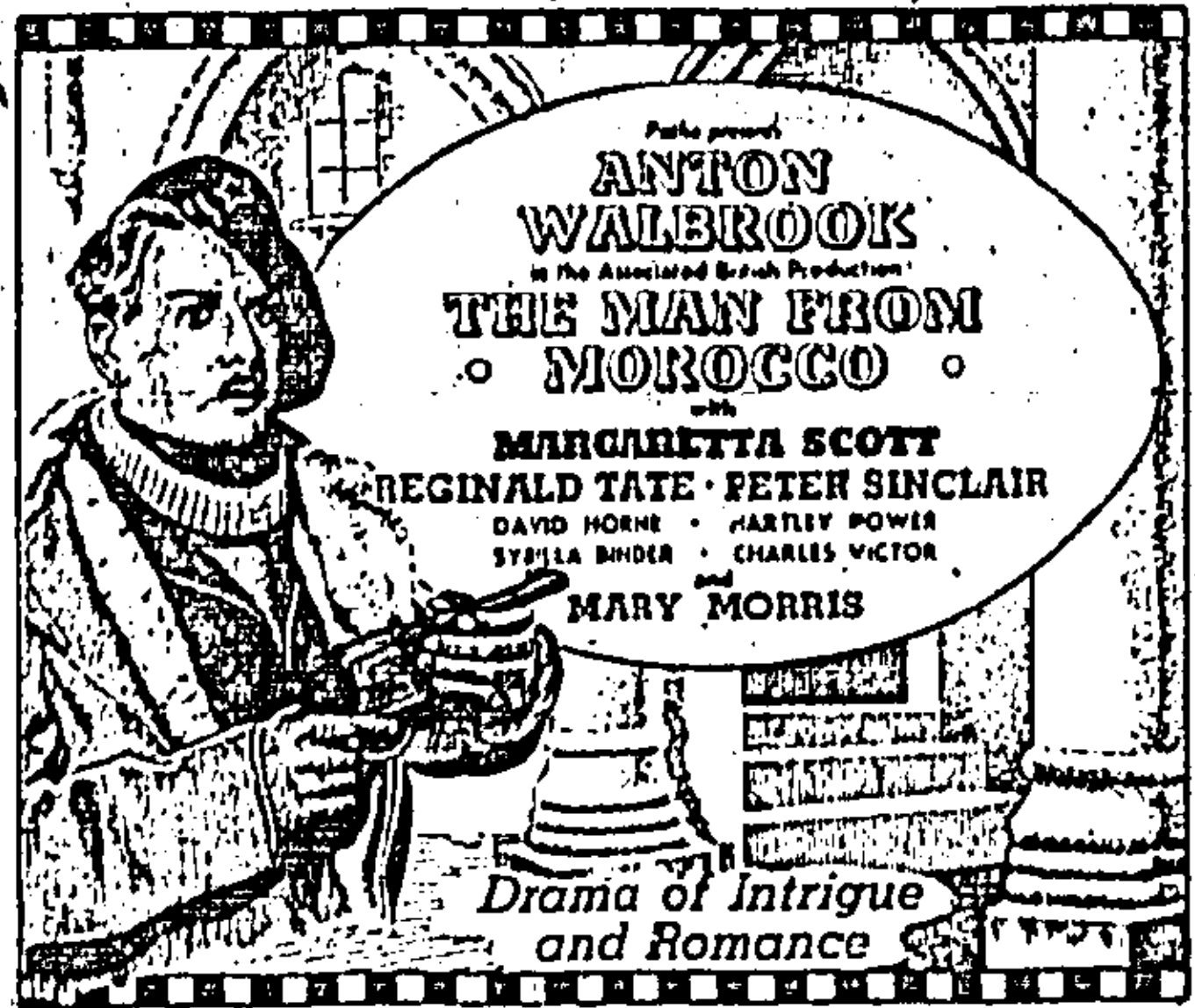
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A CHINESE PICTURE IN MANDARIN DIALOGUE

"SECRET AGENT NO 1"

The shape of things
to come

by JOHN GORDON

WITH pity and horror the free peoples of the world have seen the clouds of darkness roll in these last few days over democratic Czechoslovakia.

The right to speak, to act, and even to think as impulse or conscience moves them, passes from its fine people.

We see already the shape of things to come. All education in schools is to be "political." From now on, the minds of the growing generation are to be closed to thought.

The Minister of Information, who might be described more accurately as the Minister for the suppression of inconvenient news, has warned foreign reporters that the only "facts" they must write are those he gives them.

He has not bothered to give similar instructions to his own Press. He has merely thrown out those who hold contrary views to his, and replaced them by trusted distortionists.

'STOOGES' IN
But not for long

True, for the moment, the form of democracy has not yet been torn utterly in shreds. But in due time it will be.

There is still left what has the shape of parliamentary government. But it won't be for long.

The Communists still permit carefully selected stooges, with other labels to sit among them.

When freedom has been curbed sufficiently to ensure the Communists a clear majority in the coming election, the stooges, having served the purpose, will be cast aside.

Then down will come the iron curtain over the liberty-loving

Czechs as tightly as it sits over the Russians, who have never known liberty.

What has impelled the controllers of Soviet Russia to make this brazen new challenge to the Western democracies?

What menace does their move hold for others, including us?

These questions are being asked across devastated Europe and across the American Continent. Let us try to find logical answers.

SOVIET FEAR
A free Europe

Russia's coup is another reply to the Marshall aid plan. Rightly or wrongly she has the most desperate fear of a restored Europe.

Above all she fears a united Europe founded on the principles of freedom and democracy.

She intends to destroy the Marshall plan if she can. But if she cannot she is equally determined that the area between Marshall-aided Europe and the true Western frontier of Russia shall be so vast that a conflict if it came could be fought in other lands than Russia.

Is the seizure of Czechoslovakia the limit in view? I should hardly think so.

Hungary is in the last phase of change. Austria may soon be in the first. Both are east of the line Russia wishes to hold. Finland is being pressed closer into the fold to cover Russia in the north.

There are equally ominous signs of movement in Italy. No doubt to provide a southern bastion.

Are Russia's fears reasonable? Are they justified? To a certain extent they are.

Superficially the conflict between the two chief forces in the world today may appear to be economic.

Russia fears that the Western system of capitalism (and she includes the British brand of Socialism

under that heading equally with the United States system of free enterprise) would in the end destroy her brand of communism. The democracies, on the other hand, have an equal fear that communism would destroy their economic structure.

For the moment, therefore, both sides are seeking to achieve a balance of power—the old system of war prevention we have seen often in world history—a balance of power which, while it exists, will keep one side from attempting to destroy the other.

It is that balance of power which can be achieved the tension will ease and the possibility of war will recede into the future. Can it be achieved? I think it will be.

It will be chiefly because neither side wants a war in a position at present to fight one.

There will be tension and crises in plenty through the years immediately ahead—cold war, if you like that modern description—but no actual military action unless one side or the other in a moment of heat takes some step that leaves no option but recourse to arms.

Until a balance of power is achieved there is always the possibility of that, but I should think it reasonable to assume that war is not immediately in the minds of either side.

TWO SYSTEMS
World is big enough

On economic grounds alone it is possible for both sides to rub along together.

An economic system of capitalism and communism can exist together. The world is big enough for both.

They can even trade together with some freedom, as past years have proved, provided they avoid probing each other's touchy spots.

It may be that all we all hope it will be, the case that a period of developing mutual trade will ease the tension, and give us the years of respite we need to bring us to a better understanding of each other, and in the end to that common goal of all men: a world united in the pursuit of the happiness and liberty of all peoples.

But in the end we shall be wise never to forget this fact. Although there may be an economic settlement between the two systems of life, there is a fundamental political difference between the two, upon common agreement is impossible.

SLAVE STATE
No liberty there

The Western democracies are founded on the liberty of men. The humblest citizen is as free as the most powerful among us.

It is the old story of wartime goes, when a sudden knock comes on the door at six o'clock in the morning, the man in the free democracy knows that it is the milkman.

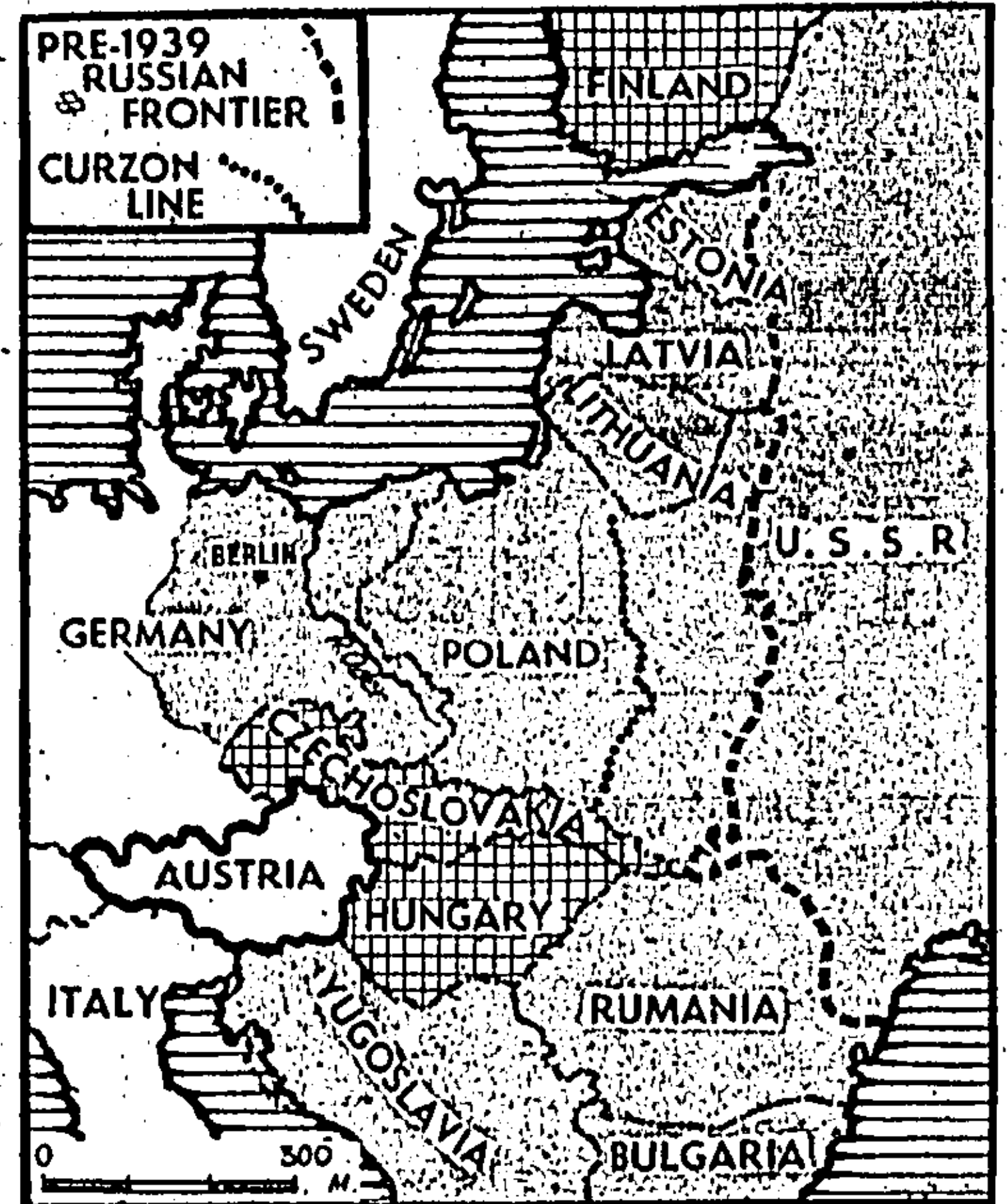
The Russian system is different. It is not based on the liberty of men, but on slavery, imposed and controlled by a relatively tiny group.

That system probably suits the Russians for the present, because they have only recently emerged from the feudal system and have never known liberty.

But even in Russia it involves keeping anything between 10 and 20 millions of people permanently in forced labour camps under rather grim conditions.

Liberty abhors slavery. Slavery fears liberty. The two systems have nothing in common, and any partnership between them is bound to be uneasy.

Now, however much we love liberty, and however urgently we hope to see it spread across the



The lands Russia controls... Those she holds completely are tinted; those in process of going over are cross-hatched. Next on the list may be Austria and Italy.

whole world, conferring liberty on the Russians is not our business. It is their business to win it themselves. Ours merely to show them the way by example, and hope that time will bring change, as it always does.

But it is very much our business to see that the slavery system does not spill too far over the frontiers of Russia. Because if it did spill too far we might one day wake up to find that we had lost our own cherished freedom.

Czechoslovakia is therefore very much the business of the free democracies.

But what can we do? Little or nothing for the moment. Certainly we cannot go to war. That would be idle, foolish, and probably disastrous.

For the moment, in that region, Moscow holds the trump, as in other regions the democracies hold them.

WILL SHE STOP?
Limit of conquest

Will Russia spread her tentacles much further? Certainly she will try whenever and wherever she thinks it can be done. In places she will succeed.

And when will she stop? The minute her advances reach the point at which the democracies say, "This is the uttermost limit. One step further and it is war."

If at that moment the United States is in a position to make war, you will find, I guess, that Russia will be ready to make a deal.

For the last thing Russia wants is war. It could, and it probably would, destroy her.

Meanwhile, we have two courses before us which we must pursue with unflinching vigour.

We must rebuild our strength, so gravely weakened by the last war, for without strength we may die in the battle of giants.

And we must seek to establish some satisfactory settlement with Russia which will allow her fears and remove the shadow of war from the world.

I suggest that what we need with some urgency is a change of view on the way to negotiate with Russia. Since the war ended we have seen one international conference after

another end in complete deadlock. Why? Because open diplomacy does not work. Delicate political negotiations conducted in the sight and hearing of all the world can achieve nothing.

Such conferences of the Powers as we have had have become merely propaganda platforms from which one side or the other declaims to the world.

I think it would be wiser to end these public bravado and get back to what history calls secret diplomacy. When two men quarrel in public a settlement becomes impossible, for neither dares to retract. But two men can quarrel even bitterly across a table in private, and in the end reach an amicable settlement because neither will "lose face" publicly if he gives way.

And I think we might do better, too, if when we change to secret diplomacy we changed our negotiations.

Such a change on both sides would be helpful. For there has been so much public squabbling that both sets of negotiators have now come to regard each other as irreconcilable adversaries instead of men seeking to hammer out a settlement.

As for the strength we must rebuild to hold our place among the giants, I would suggest that we should be wise to shed ourselves of the idea that we can ever again send into the field what is called a Continental Army—that is, an army swollen by conscription to the limit of our civilian population.

The historic role of Britain was to have a supreme Navy capable of holding the seas against all comers, plus a small but superb professional Army for the protection of the homeland and vital points overseas.

WHERE WE LOSE
Doing too much

To the Navy nowadays must be added a strong Air Force.

We cannot maintain a first-class Navy, a powerful Air Force, and a citizen Army of Continental strength. We do not have the manpower or the money to do it.

Our exhaustion as a nation began when we decided for the first time in our history to send a large-scale citizen Army abroad in the 1914 war.

We brought ourselves to the very edge of disaster when we repeated that folly in the last war. We should never do it again.

BY THE WAY by Beachcomber

MR. COLIN VELVETTE,

Mr producer of such ballets as "The Tub of Lard," "L'Oiseau sur le Chapeau," "Adieu, Beau Fromage!" and "Sea Moonlight," is seriously considering the possibility of engaging the Filthiest Trio for his new production, "Iphigenia in Tauris."

Mr Velvett said when interviewed: "One definitely does so want rhythm in ballet, and these Persians are definitely rhythmic in their movements, actually, if you know what I mean. One senses most frightfully about getting these things utterly right." Mr Velvett is married to Konsolina, Putimov (Agnes Griffith) of the Peabody Opera Company, who did the famous double glissade on her elbows in "The Melancholy Brewers."

Mr Velvett rang up the Trio.

Mr V.: Hello.

Kasbulah: Ho yes, please.

Mr V.: Is that the er-Mr-the Persian Trio?

Kasbulah: It is but one of us, Mr Minister, have you our plans?

Mr V.: Actually, I'm Velvett.

Kasbulah: Is plank coming, O official?

Mr V.: I'm afraid there's a mistake. I have no planks. I—

Kasbulah: Ring down! We want no other talk, ho yes.

Same man, different hat

Oh, has he been fooled by his hat?

Or is it a cloakroom mishap?

When I saw him today he was wearing

A little round wickerwork CAP.

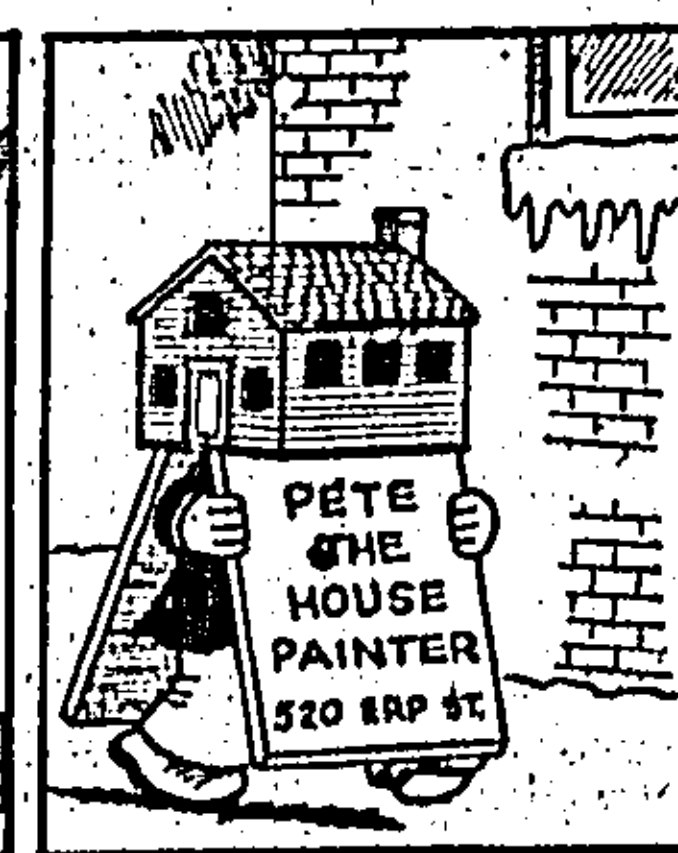
In passing

THE fantastic story that American comedians travel about with gagsters on the end of a string appears to be true. It is very typical of this insane age that a comedian should be nothing but the foreman in a joke-factory. I hope flies are kept, with statistics of the number of laughs per joke per performance, and the duration of each laugh, in every place visited. Thus—

Joke 594, Boston. 128 laughs. Average duration 7 seconds; 411 letters; 1,134 smiles.

But I find it hard to believe that some of Mr Bob Hope's jokes are churned out by a committee; for instance, when, having stumbled over a cat, he says angrily, "From now on you catch your own mice!"

NANCY Catering to the Help



By Ernie Bushmiller

Serious Floods In S. Africa

Bloemfontein, Mar. 14.—The southern area of the Orange Free State and the northern part of Cape Province experienced the heaviest rainfall for years this week-end.

Rivers have overflowed, motorists are stranded, farm houses have been cut off and farmlands waterlogged. Airmails have been held up and planes diverted.

South Africa's greatest river, the Orange, dividing the Free State and Cape Provinces, is tumbling in raging torrents in places. Huge areas of normally dry land are dotted with vast lakes. Many farmers' dams have burst, causing great damage.—Associated Press.

Airliner Tragedy

Anchorage, Alaska, Mar. 14.—The bodies of 50 persons in an American airliner wrecked on Mount Sanford about 200 miles northeast of Anchorage may never be recovered. Authorities here said that rescue parties would be up against great odds in trying to reach the scene, which is on a glacier on the 10,200-foot mountain.

The airliner, a DC4 Skymaster of Northwest Airlines, was found yesterday after being missing on a flight from Shanghai to St. Paul, Minnesota.—Associated Press.

Letters To The Editor

Anti-TB Problem

Sir,—Your interest in the anti-TB problem of this colony is indeed a great encouragement to the anti-TB workers as well as TB victims.

Induced the TB problem in Hongkong has its own peculiarities different from that of the west. Prejudice and ignorance play a very great part, probably a greater part in the high incidence of tuberculosis in this colony.

The well-to-do victims who can independently afford treatment owing to prejudice against TB (they consider TB as a hereditary disease and a family disgrace) try to hide it as long as they can, spreading the disease as they live on.

The working people on the other hand, owing to prejudice against this disease, consider TB as incurable and therefore almost always discharged their TB (employees) will hide the disease as long as they can bear it—similarly passing on the disease to others as they struggle along.

These attitudes towards TB are made worse by the local government treatment of notified TB cases.

In the western countries when Government is notified of a TB case, especially if he happens to be a government servant, Government will see that he is sent to a sanatorium, and his family is provided for or alternatively, Government will not only provide the doctor to look after him if he is poor, but also will send a public health or district nurse to look after the patient and to teach the family prevention against the spreading of the disease at home.

In the case of our local Government, when it is notified of a TB case, it is not only unable to help, but will discharge him if he happens to be a government servant, or else it makes so much fuss with the patient who will either lose his face or his job.

The lack of facilities for proper treatment of TB in free institutions, and the high cost of treatment in private hospitals are great handicaps in the control of TB in this colony. Here is a patient who is coughing out blood. He goes to a free clinic from where he is sent for an X-ray, and was told to come back in a week's time for medicine. He goes somewhere else to seek immediate relief.

The monthly expenses for a TB patient in a general ward in a private hospital run as follows:—
Doctor's fee including injections \$400.00
Ward charges @ \$4 per day 120.00
Food and three meals a day 180.00
Sundry expenses 30.00

Total, \$770.00
From these figures you will be able to judge how many per cent. of our TB victims can be discovered and properly treated. It is my sincere hope that the opening of our new sanatorium will, as it should if properly run, in a smaller or greater measure serve to improve the lot of our TB sufferers.

It is also my sincere hope that Government treatment of TB victims will be modified, always remembering that local conditions are not similar to those of the west.

Indeed it will be most appropriate that the Anti-TB Association erect a bust of Dr. P. S. Selwyn-Clarke at the gate of our new sanatorium as a mark of appreciation of his great and noble work, he being the greatest Anti-TB worker and social reformer the colony has ever seen.

ANTI-TB.

Elizabeth's Social Activities Meet Newspaper Criticism

London, Mar. 14.—Is Princess Elizabeth becoming a royal butterfly? The provocative question, raised by the mass circulation Sunday Pictorial, has stirred up hot arguments among Britons.

Launching an editorial campaign seeking to make the Princess Presumptive to the Throne more democratic, the Pictorial charged that her public appeal is being "utterly wasted" in social high jinks at fashionable restaurants, clubs and the theatre.

"In the minds of the masses," it said, "she is associated more and more with smart West End niteries and less and less with those places where the new battle of Britain is being fought—the factories, fields, mills and mining villages."

The paper did not blame the Princess herself for this folly. It laid the fault instead on what it called unimaginative and highbrow advisers, "whose cotton wool theories prevent her from extending her activities and inspiring the nation by her leadership and charm."

Some agree that the Princess should spend more time in the Pictorial's words, "seeing our country at work, at home and in queues unhampered and unhampered" by retinues of officials.

But others have dashed off scorching letters to the paper, taking sides with the Princess.

The theme of a lot of the kick-backs is—the Princess has not much of a life she can call her own, so she is entitled to all the fun she can find.

Buckingham Palace held itself augustly aloof from the row.

Two Sides

Many of Elizabeth's future subjects simply shrug off the crusade, remarking ironically: "We would not know the answer—we live up a different street and do not have much contact with royalty."

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"There's probably nothing to this, but we like to think he's somewhat advanced for 13 months."

GASPERI WILL FACE TEST AT COMING ELECTIONS

Rome, Mar. 14.—A high percentage of voters at the polls on April 18 will mean victory for Signor de Gasperi and the other moderate parties in the Italian general elections, political observers here believe. No one, however, is sure how the middle class—generally estimated at about 10,000,000 out of Italy's 46,000,000 inhabitants—will vote.

Generally speaking, Signor de Gasperi's radical social policy, severe taxation and deflationary measures have hit the middle class most heavily.

Apart from this, quite a substantial section of Italy's middle class is strongly anti-clerical in its policies and dislikes the present predominance of Signor de Gasperi's Christian Democrats.

On the other hand, the middle class is also the most influenced by the events in Czechoslovakia as well as by the practical reports of the tremendous help given and still being given to Italy today by the United States.

These may result in its throwing its weight into the balance in favour of the moderates.

Has To Work Hard

At a recent gathering of Communist leaders and their political associates, a general estimate of about 11,000,000 votes for the population is reported to have been accepted as probable.

There are in something over 27,000,000 voters on the lists, although final returns may show a somewhat higher figure.

The centre right will therefore have to work hard to put a decisive majority over the Communist-dominated Popular Front if the latter's hopes are realised.

Fate, so far, is not being kind to Signor de Gasperi. The Bogdanov riots, with over 50 Italians killed, gave the left a weapon for violent anti-British propaganda accompanied by the suggestion that Signor de Gasperi was too pro-British to be able to get any satisfaction.

Recently there has been the affair of Monsignor Cipello, unfrocked in an unusually strong denunciation published on the front page of the Vatican organ, Osservatore Romano.

Gift To Anti-Clericals

Only time will show what was the extent of the alleged "falsifications and swindles" which the statement in Osservatore Romano gave as the reason for the banning from holy orders of the churchman who had held a confidential post in the Vatican.

The news was a gift to the anti-clericals. Signor de Gasperi has made some lively attacks on the Communists in his speeches.

Unless Italy votes for democracy on April 18, that will be the last election for a long time, was one of his trenchant phrases.

Signor Togliatti, Italy's Communist leader, retorted: "It is necessary, at any time and at any cost, to get power into the hands of the popular masses in order to prevent it coming into the hands of those monopolists, capitalists and speculators who have already caused two world wars."

Reuter.

Morgan Phillips In Rome

Rome, Mar. 14.—Mr. Morgan Phillips, Secretary of the British Labour Party, who is visiting Rome with Mr. Denis Healey, the party's International Secretary, said today his visit was made at the request of various European Socialist parties to invite the Italian Moderate Socialists to the Rome talks on March 21-22.

The invitation has now been accepted. "The matter has been discussed with representatives of the Italian Socialist Party (the party of Signor Pietro Nenni), who have been kept fully informed and who accepted the invitation to attend the conference some weeks ago," his statement added.

It was reliably learned earlier today that the object of the Rome visit was also to find out the exact position of Signor Nenni's extreme Socialists, who have been fused with the Communists and, in view of the events in Czechoslovakia, how this fusion would affect their participation in the Socialist International.

It was hoped the visit might moderate the extreme Socialist policy.

Warning To Fusionists

The Independent Messenger said: "The invitation (to the Lombard group) headed by Signor Ivan Matteo Lombardo, leader of the break-away Moderate Socialists, whom Mr. Phillips met yesterday, while constituting the first official recognition of the extreme Socialist policy."

Reuter.

ZBW BROADCAST

H.K.T. Studio: Hospital Request Half Hour Presented by Ethel (Holmes Brown); 8.30, Studio: Portuguese Half Hour; 9.00, Studio: Italian Half Hour; 9.15, B.B.C. Transcription Service: Frederick Bayce at the Organ; 9.30, Studio: Hope; 9.45, Calling Her Favourite and His Orchestra by Anna Winn; 9.55, Studio: Piano Recital by Evelyn Brazier; 10.00, Symphony Orchestra; 10.15, London Relay; 10.30, World and Home News; 10.45, Weather Report; 10.55, Studio: George Pearson and His Beach Boys with Mary (Vocal); 11.00, Music by Sir Edward Elgar; 11.15, London Relay; 11.30, Studio: Radio News; 11.45, Something for Everybody; 12.00, Close down.

CHECK YOUR KNOWLEDGE

Answers

1. Field Marshal Viscount Alexander 2. Bamboo 3. Between Russia and China 4. Chow Chow 5. Tokyo, Japan 6. Duke of York.

WORLD SPORT:

Britain's Slim Hopes For Badminton Trophy

London, Mar. 14.—Britain's chances of winning the first international badminton trophy, the Thomas Cup, to be played in London in the spring of next year, are nil, judging by the results of the English badminton championships and reports from India and Malaya of the standard of play in those two great badminton loving countries.

It would have been nice, indeed, if Britain could have won her own trophy put up for international competition by that fine veteran, Sir George Thomas, but to all outward appearances she will vanish early from the competition, despite the fact that the shuttle game is flourishing today in Britain as it has never flourished before, for, whereas before the war there were only 1,800 clubs, there are now more than 2,200.

In the English badminton championships concluded in London last week, Scandinavian players swept the board, winning all five titles, and only in one, the women's doubles, did a British player figure in the final.

The European Zone final of the Thomas Cup should be between India and Denmark, and Malaya will almost certainly get a walkover in the Pacific Zone, while Canada should beat the United States in the American Zone.

It is understood that the winners of each zone will draw as to which team is to get the bye and which to meet the winner of the other zone.

Two Strongest Nations

Thus Malaya and India, generally regarded as the two strongest nations playing this 75-year-old game, may clash in a semi-final, leaving the winners to oppose Canada, but of course the eagerly anticipated final between India and Malaya, for which all shuttle fans in the Far East are already longing, might well come to pass.

While the Indians may well be expected to enter the European zone with some confidence, they will not lose sight of the fact that Paul Holm, the Danish champion, who recently toured India, was beaten by a fellow countryman, Jörn Skarup, in straight sets, so they know already they have no light task before them.

These recent championships were splendid and gave much delight to British fans, but they will be completely dwarfed by next year's championships.—Reuter.

GRAND NATIONAL

London, Mar. 14.—About 50 horses, representing the cream of British and Irish steeplechasers, will contest this year's Grand National, to be run once again at Aintree, on the outskirts of Liverpool, next Saturday.

There will thus be the usual keen competition for this great steeplechase, the most famous in the world, run as it is over four and a half miles with 30 huge obstacles to be negotiated.

"Favourites do not, as a rule, win it, for not since 1927, when Sprig scored, has the first marked choice proved successful."

On the other hand, the race almost as frequently goes to a rank outsider as was the case last year, when Eire's Caughoo won at odds of 100 to 1. Caughoo is again bidding for victory in an attempt to emulate the feats of Abd El Kadir, the Colonel and Reynoldstown, who each won the race in successive years.

On last year's running, success is again still within the compass of this fine chaser, even though he has another 15 pounds to carry, but his running this season has not been particularly impressive.

Only this week, he blotted out his record by falling for the first time in his life during a schooling race at Navan, in his own country. For all that, his connections are said to be sanguine of victory.

Apart from the numerous Irish bred horses in the race, there are several contenders all told, trained in various countries, and they are Caughoo, Prince Regent, Keep Faith, Lough Conn, Highland Lad, Loyal Antrim and Skouras.

"Jump Sunday"

"Jump Sunday" at Aintree was revived today after a lapse of eight years, and the attendance broke all records, as thousands of people arrived to walk over the course and inspect the famous Grand National fence.

In glorious weather, they picked up on the canal bank and the approaches to the course from early afternoon until the entrances were closed at 5.00 p.m. British summer time.

Hundreds of buses brought the people from a wide area, and transport was put on by the Liverpool Corporation and electric trains arrived packed.

The Lancashire County police experimented on the course with mounted police equipped with "walkie talkie" apparatus as several of them will be on duty next Saturday.

Today's crowds, including women and girls in summer dresses, made a colourful picture while, buskers, tipsters and refreshment sellers made the scene resemble an actual race meeting, without the horse race.

Over in the stables, at the quiet end of the course, some of the runners in the famous steeplechase had already arrived. They included Prince Regent and Lough Conn.

After the course has been closed, the crowds flocked back to the city and people hung about for a long time waiting for transport.—Reuter.

KRAMER WINS AGAIN

San Antonio, Mar. 14.—Jack Kramer today displayed all-round superiority to defeat Bobby Nipp 6-4, 6-2, widening his lead in their professional tennis tour series to 14 matches.

In 40 matches, Kramer won 30 and Nipp 10.

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Pancho Segura tripped Dinny Falls 6-4, 6-4 in a second singles match. The victor ran his win record over Falls to 22 to 7.—United Press.

NICE TENNIS

Nice, Mar. 14.—King Gustav of Sweden, who is 89 today, watched the finals of the International Lawn tennis tournament at Beaulieu, in which Joseph Abboto (Hungary) defeated Marie Belardinelli (Italy) 6-5, 7-5.

King Gustav arrived in the French Riviera on Friday for his usual spring holiday. He is staying in Nice.—Reuter.

MATCHES IN CAIRO

Cairo, Mar. 14.—Farzanoo Pungee, former Yugoslav Davis Cup player, won the men's singles with Egypt's Adly Shafel—the men's doubles in Egypt's International tennis championships at Cairo today.

Pungee defeated Jacques Pelen of Belgium 6-2, 6-3, 6-4 in the singles, and with Shafel won the last two sets of the doubles final, which was interrupted on Saturday because of darkness.

Shafel and Pungee defeated the Belgian pair Philippe Washer and Pierre Ghelland, 6-8, 6-3, 5-7, 7-5, 7-5.

The women's title was won by Madame Nelly Landry of France, who beat her countrywoman, Suzanne Fancher, 6-4, 6-2.

More than 2,000 persons packed the sporting club to watch the finals.—Associated Press.

SOCCER INTERNATIONAL

Antwerp, Mar. 15.—The soccer international between the Belgian Red Devils and Holland at Antwerp ended in a draw of one goal each.

Holland led at half time, Leenstra scoring in the tenth minute, but eight minutes after the changeover, Chaves equalised for Belgium.—Associated Press.

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